

5           What is claimed as new and desired to be protected by Letters Patent is set forth in the  
appended claims.

I claim:

1.       A bar code reader data communications method using radio paging networks, comprising:  
          reading a bar code symbol with a bar code reader and storing the data in the

10   reader;

          electrically coupling the bar code reader with a mobile communications transceiver;

          transferring the data from the bar code symbol reader to the transceiver and  
processing the data into a message; and

          transmitting the message over a wireless communication link to a base station.

2.       The method of claim 1, further comprising:

          receiving the message at a distribution node on a network on which the base  
station is coupled;

          processing the symbol data at the distribution node to determine the message destination  
station; and

          transmitting the message from the distribution node to the destination station over  
the network.

3.       The method of claim 2, wherein the distribution node on the network is an Internet  
website.

4.       The method of claim 2, wherein the message is an alert in the form of a radio paging  
25   signal including the data from the bar code symbol.

5 5. The method of claim 4, wherein the alert includes information on the location of the bar code reader.

6. The method of claim 2, wherein the distribution node includes a database containing paging address information.

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7. The method of claim 2, wherein the node on the network is an access point in a wireless local area network.

8. The method of claim 4, wherein the alert is in the form of a HTML script.

9. The method of claim 4, further comprising providing access to the alert network page through a URL containing the appropriate query strings necessary to present the appropriate page to the destination station.

10. The method of claim 4, wherein the alert signal identifies the user to the destination station.

11. A method of messaging in a paging network of at least two spatially separate individual wireless local area network (WLANs) using a bar code reader comprising:

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reading a bar code symbol on a portable bar code reader and storing the data therein;

coupling the bar code reader to a first mobile unit with a radio transceiving;

5            decoding the bar code symbol and, encoding a message with the decoded data into a  
packet with a destination address corresponding to the destination node; and

transferring the packetized message to a web server at the node:

12.        The method as defined in claim 11, further comprising at a server, determining if a  
10        second mobile unit is active on the network at the time the packetized textual message is received  
at the web server; and

if the second mobile unit is active, transmitting an alert from the web server to the second  
mobile unit that a message destined for such unit is available from the web server.

13.        An article comprising a computer-readable medium that stores computer-executable  
15        instructions for configuring a mobile computer, comprising;

20            responding to a coupling signal of a bar code reader being electrically connected with the  
mobile computer by generating a data downloading command from the mobile computer to the  
reader;

downloading data from scanned bar code symbols from the reader to the mobile  
computer; and

in response to completion of the downloading action, transmitting an alert from the  
mobile computer to a base station containing a message with data read from the symbol and

25        14.        The article as defined in claim 11, further comprising forming a page at a website  
containing the data from the symbol;

